

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicant to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various of the claims as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicant notes the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wills et al. in view of Japanese 200129293 which was cited in a previous Information Disclosure Statement, and wherein the Examiner details the grounds of rejection in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

However, applicant further gratefully notes the Examiner's indication that at least claim 8 is considered to be directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten either independent form, or made dependent from an allowable claim.

Accordingly, upon careful consideration of the art and in order to place the application into substantial order for allowance, applicant has cancelled claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and in lieu thereof herewith presents new and more specific claims 9 and 10, which are analogous to the claims which have been allowed in the parent German application from which priority is claimed herein, and on the basis of similar prior art.

In essence, the newly presented independent claim 9 incorporates the components of the original allowable claim 8, and which emphasizes the subject matter of the present invention in that the two half bridges for the operation of the auxiliary drive are related to the use of one of the arms of the bridge for the operation of the main drive, whereby for the auxiliary drive there must only be provided the arm of a single further half bridge. None of the prior art references disclose the foregoing, as detailed further on hereinbelow, and wherein with regard to

the dependent claim 10 which is newly presented herein, that by means by such a topology with consideration being given to a limit for the motor sum voltage which can be operated, and in which the main drive and auxiliary drives are at different rotary field frequencies.

Reverting in more specific detail to the art, in essence it is a task and an object of the present invention that for a specific but a multi purpose operation of the auxiliary drive, in effect also in parallel relative to the main drive, by means of a minimum amount of effort with regard to a converter associated to the drives these are deemed to be operable through a common dc-voltage intermediate circuit.

The foregoing, object is attained in that the single-phase auxiliary drive with one of its two motor supply lines is connected to one arm in the form of a converter half bridge of the three-phase main drive, wherein the other motor supply line of the single-phase auxiliary drive is connected to a converter with only the other one arm of a half-bridge is operatively associated therewith.

The foregoing structure and function cannot be ascertained from any of the prior art publications, wherein Wills et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,121,749 discloses a variable-speed drive for a single-phase motor and does not in any manner provide for the particular type of connection and operation in conjunction with a main drive employed for a large domestic appliances. Basically, the general type of circuit arrangement is known from the Japanese Publication 05049780A or from the Japanese Publication JP 2001129293A, the latter of which was cited by the present applicant and also by the Examiner, wherein essentially downstream of a bridge circuit converter, provided is a set of switches for connection either to a rotary field motor for washing operation or to a rotary field motor for dryer operation, such as respectively, for a pump drive. It is impossible to concurrently operate two motors by means by such a set of switches.

Hereby from the prior art, such as represented by German DE 3313167A1 there is known for an industrial robot with electrical rotary field single drives, that for every motor there can be supplied from a central dc-voltage immediate circuit, a separately connected converter. This facilitates namely a fully individual operation of each of the motors; however, any savings and circuit technology in connection with the provision that a auxiliary drive can be operated in parallel with a main drive but which does not provide a capability of being available over the entire operative range of the main drive, cannot be obtained by such type of parallel operation of the presently provided converter which is individually associated with each of the single motors.

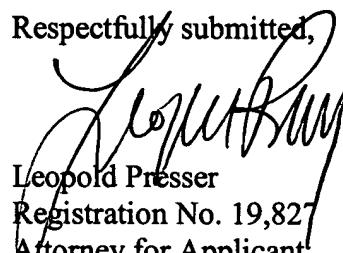
Accordingly, in order to clearly emphasize the foregoing aspects which cannot be ascertained from either Wills et al. nor from the Japanese publications, applicant has presented new claims 9 and 10 which in essence comprise the scope of previously allowable claim 8, and wherein newly presented claim 9 provides the subject matter thereof in a more fully detailed claimed extent; whereas claim 10 which is directed to a further limitation which indicates that the motors of both of the main and auxiliary drives are designed so that the sum of their two motor voltages does not exceed the voltage at the output of the dc-voltage intermediate circuit.

None of the foregoing features nor capabilities of operation of the auxiliary and main drives are ascertainable from the prior art as cited by the Examiner nor that as known to the applicant.

Concerning the foregoing, in addition to the arguments and newly presented claims, applicant also encloses a Search Report issued in the corresponding European patent application, and the prior art cited therein, from which there can be noted that the claims as presented herein are directed to clearly allowable and patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, the early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application and the Examiner's issuance of the Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted amendment, applicant's attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,


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